

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1468

ANSWERED ON:22.08.2007

POLLUTION IN METROPOLITAN CITIES

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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the level of air pollution in various States of the country including the metropolitan cities and also in Uttar Pradesh is on the rise;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the present pollution level in metropolitan cities;
- (d) whether any Air Monitoring Stations have been set up in the country;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) the steps taken by these stations to improve the air quality, particularly in big cities;
- (g) whether the Government proposes to take the help of international bodies in this regard;
- (h) if so, the details thereof; and
- (i) the effective measures taken by the Government to control the air pollution in the Country?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a), (b) & (c) While the pollution level of sulphur dioxide in metropolitan cities during the last few years is observed to have a decreasing trend, the nitrogen dioxide is found to have a fluctuating trend, with both these pollutants generally within the permissible limits. However, the levels of Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter, (another indicator of air pollution), have been observed to exceed prescribed National Ambient Air Quality Standards in most of the cities including Uttar Pradesh.

(d), (e) & (f) The Central Pollution Control Board in association with the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) in the Union Territories and other Institutions, is Monitoring Ambient Air Quality at 339 locations covering 126 cities/towns in 25 States and 4 Union Territories of the country under the National Air Quality Monitoring Programme. For proper assessment of air quality, the Central Pollution Control Board has also undertaken a programme, in collaboration with the respective SPCBs/PCCs, for installation of Continuous Air Quality Monitoring Stations in the country. Under this Programme, 32 Continuous Air Quality Monitoring Stations have already been set up.

(g) & (h) Further, the Central Pollution Control Board has also collaborated with Germany through GTZ to develop one mobile van for carrying out continuous air quality monitoring and also for carrying out specific studies like source apportionment and emission inventory studies.

(i) Measures taken for abatement of air pollution include-

Notification of Emission standards for industries and for vehicles under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Enforcement of auto exhaust emission standards for new vehicles at manufacturing stage.

Improved fuel quality.

Use of beneficiated coal in the thermal power stations.

Initiation of Source Apportionment Studies;

Phasing out of more than 15 year old commercial transport vehicles;

Identification of 24 critically polluted areas and formulation of Action Plans for restoration of environmental quality in these areas.